

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 7 and 8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 4, 7 and 8 are amended and claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 9-10 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Specifically, claims 2, 7 and 8 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 3 and 5 and other features, and claim 4 is amended to depend from independent claim 2. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Salesky et al. (Salesky), U.S. Patent No. 6,343,313. The rejection of canceled claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 9-10 is moot. The rejection of claims 2, 4, 7 and 8 is respectfully traversed.

Salesky does not disclose any feature that can reasonably be considered to correspond to a mode switching unit that switches a split display mode to and from a sequential display mode, so that, in the split display mode, the image displaying unit displays images based on individual image data on divided sections of one screen, and in the sequential display mode, the image displaying unit displays one image based on the individual image data on a full screen, as now recited in independent claim 2, and similarly recited in independent claims 7 and 8.

Salesky discloses that the presenter and attendees may participate in an ordinary telephone call or a conventional conference call using telephones 20 connected through conference switch 22 (allegedly corresponding to the claimed mode switching unit) (see col. 7, lines 4-7). Salesky discloses that the telephone conference switch 22 merely acts as a telephone switch. However, Salesky does not disclose, nor would it have suggested, a mode switching unit that switches a split display mode to and from a sequential display mode, so that, in the split display mode, the image displaying unit displays images based on individual

image data on divided sections of one screen, and in the sequential display mode, the image displaying unit displays one image based on the individual image data on a full screen, as now recited in independent claim 2, and similarly recited in independent claims 7 and 8.

Therefore, independent claim 2 and its dependent claim 4, and independent claims 7 and 8 are patentable over Salesky for at least this reason.

Furthermore, Salesky does not disclose any feature that can reasonably be considered to correspond to an image data acquisition controlling unit that sends to the terminals, other than the relevant terminal, a request to suspend transmission, requests the relevant terminal for transmission of image data for one image or continuous transmission of image data until an instruction to switch the source of image transmission is issued, so that while the image based on the image data output from the relevant terminal is being displayed, the other terminals do not output image data, and thereafter requests the switched terminal to transmit image data, as recited in independent claim 2, and similarly recited in independent claims 7 and 8.

Salesky discloses that the presenter can "go off-air," i.e., suspend or pause the image capturing process and can "go on-air," i.e., resume the presentation at will (see col. 15, lines 15-17). Further, Salesky discloses that an attendee can request to be off-air (see col. 15, lines 19-21). That is, it is the attendee or the presenter that requests itself to be off-air. Neither the attendee nor the presenter requests that other attendees or presenters go off-air or suspend transmission. Therefore, Salesky does not disclose an image data acquisition controlling unit that sends to the terminals, other than the relevant terminal, a request to suspend transmission, requests the relevant terminal for transmission of image data for one image or continuous transmission of image data until an instruction to switch the source of image transmission is issued, so that while the image based on the image data output from the relevant terminal is being displayed, the other terminals do not output image data, and thereafter requests the

image data on divided sections of one screen, and in the sequential display mode, the image displaying unit displays one image based on the individual image data on a full screen, as now recited in independent claim 2, and similarly recited in independent claims 7 and 8.

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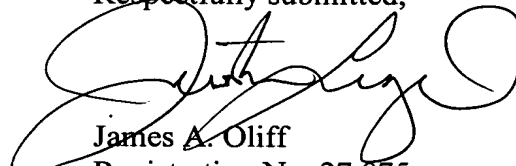
switched terminal to transmit image data, as recited in independent claim 2, and similarly recited in independent claims 7 and 8. Therefore, independent claim 2 and its dependent claim 4, and independent claims 7 and 8 are patentable over Salesky for at least this reason.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

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